

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-80 (cancelled).

<sup>1</sup>  
Claim ~~81~~ (new): An isolated and purified polynucleic acid encoding a biologically active STRAP polypeptide, wherein the STRAP polypeptide is at least about 99% identical to a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

<sup>2</sup>  
Claim ~~82~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~, wherein the STRAP polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 2.

<sup>3</sup>  
Claim ~~83~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~, wherein the polynucleic acid has the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

<sup>4</sup>  
Claim ~~84~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~, further defined as comprising at least a 1,000 nucleotide long contiguous stretch of the polynucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

<sup>5</sup>  
Claim ~~85~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~Claim 86 (new): The polynucleic acid of claim 81, further defined as a DNA segment.~~

<sup>7</sup>  
Claim ~~87~~ (new): A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~.

<sup>8</sup>  
Claim ~~88~~ (new): The recombinant vector of claim ~~87~~, wherein the vector is a recombinant expression vector.

<sup>9</sup>  
Claim ~~89~~ (new): The recombinant vector of claim ~~87~~ in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

<sup>10</sup>  
Claim ~~90~~ (new): A recombinant host cell comprising the recombinant vector of claim ~~87~~. <sup>7</sup>

<sup>11</sup>  
Claim ~~91~~ (new): The recombinant host cell of claim ~~90~~, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic cell. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>12</sup>  
Claim ~~92~~ (new): The recombinant host cell of claim ~~90~~, wherein the host cell is a eukaryotic cell. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>13</sup>  
Claim ~~93~~ (new): The recombinant host cell of claim ~~90~~ in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup>  
Claim ~~94~~ (new): A method of preparing a STRAP polypeptide, comprising: transforming a cell with the polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~ to produce STRAP under conditions suitable for the expression of said polypeptide.